

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 EB-08 USIA-06

COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 SP-02

OMB-01 /052 W

-----250210 031527 /73

R 241901Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5873

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEGUCIGALPA 0899

E.O. 11652: DECONTROL DECEMBER 31, 1980

TAGS: EAID, HO

SUBJECT: FAO TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM

REF. A) STATE 034398, B) ROME 2668

1. TWO PROJECTS CITED REF. 2. WERE PRESENTED TO FAO LAST DECEMBER BY AGRAIRAN REFORM INSTITUTE (INA) DIRECTOR, RIGOBERTO SANDOVAL.

2. SANDOVAL HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN IN CHARGE OF FAO'S RURAL INSTITUTIONS SECTOR UNIT FOR LATIN AMERICA. REPORTEDLY HIS PROPOSED TWO PROJECTS, EACH OF WHICH IS FOR ABOUT \$100,000, WERE, WE ARE TOLD, ACCEPTED WITH ALACRITY BY FAO DG.

A. THE MASICA PROJECT IS AIMED AT FLOOD CONTROL IN THE NORTH AND FUNDS ARE TO BE USED LARGELY FOR EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, BUT ALSO INCLUDES SEEDS AND PLANTING STOCK FOR AFRICAN OIL PALM, GRAPEFRUIT AND CACAO. SOME CONSULTANT ADVICE MAY BE INVOLVED.

B. THE SECOND PROJECT INVOLVES SMALL SCALE IRRIGATION EFFORTS IN THE SOUTH IN THE CHOLUTECA AREAS.

3. THE UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE IS GENERALLY INFORMED, AND WITH RESPECT TO THE FIRST PROJECT HAS BEEN ASKED TO  
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OVERSEE THE PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL TOOLS AND IMPLEMENTS INCLUDING PURCHASES OF TRACTORS AND OTHER IMPORTED COMMODITIES.

4. SINCE THE PROJECTS WERE PROPOSED BY SANDOVAL WHO HAS CABINET RANK, IT MAY BE PRESUMED THAT GOH CONSIDERS THE PROJECTS WORTHWHILE AND RESPONSIVE TO NEEDS. IMPACT,

GIVEN THE MODEST SIZE OF THE INVESTMENT WOULD HAVE  
TO BE REGARDED AS RELATIVELY SMALL.

5. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE \$18.5 MILLIONS, CITED REF. 1,  
IS FAR FROM SAVINGS SECURED FROM FAO'S REGULAR BUDGET  
AND THAT A CONSIDERABLE PROPORTION OF THE TOTAL  
SAVINGS WILL BE USED TO POSITION FAO COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES  
IN THE LDCS. FAO HAS, WE UNDERSTAND, APPROACHED THE GOH  
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES WHICH, PERHAPS PREDICTABLY,  
FAVORS ANOTHER ADVOCATE AND SUPPORTER OF AGRICULTURAL  
PROGRAMS.

6. COMMENT. WE SEE NO GREAT PROBLEM IN THE TWO PROJECTS.  
INDEED SOME POSITIVE RESULTS MAY ENSUE. HOWEVER, THE  
PRECEDENTIAL CHARACTER OF GOH AGRICULTURAL AGENCIES GOING  
OFF ON THEIR OWN WITHOUT CLOSE COORDINATION WITH THE  
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES POSES POTENTIALLY PROBLEMS  
OF FOCUS AND COORDINATION IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR.  
WHAT IS DISTURBING, IF TRUE, IS THE POTENTIAL ESTABLISH-  
MENT OF A NEW SET OF SPECIALIZED AGENCY EXECUTIVES NOT  
RESPONSIBLE, INDEED, POTENTIALLY UNRESPONSIVE, TO THE  
UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE. THIS TENDS TO UNDERMINE  
A U.S. EFFORT OF NEARLY 30 YEARS AND WE WOULD SUGGEST  
THAT THIS MATTER WARRANTS THE MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION  
IN USG FORUMS.  
BECKER

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 STATE 34398, 77 ROME 2668  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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